

Exodus 35 - Thursday, July 9th, 2009

- From this chapter, to the end of the book in chapter 40, the Israelites will now build the Tabernacle as God had instructed them to do.
- While these last six chapters in Exodus may seem repetitive and redundant, the Lord is going to reinforce some important principles.
- It's for this reason that I will take and tackle this teaching a little bit differently than how we have, here-to-fore, in the previous chapters.

- In this chapter, there are these, what I'll call; "take outs," meaning, we can "take out" truths from the text to apply in our day to day lives.
- Take-Out #1: The time spent in my relationship with the Lord is more important than my time spent in service to the Lord. (Vs. 1-3)
- Take-Out #2: If giving is done cheerfully, then give to the Lord, if it is done grudgingly, it won't be a blessing before the Lord. (Vs. 4-9)
- Take-Out #3: When Jesus is in His rightful place at the center of my life, then, I'll be the recipient of His blessing in my life. (Vs. 10-19)
- Take-Out #4: God's mercy doesn't give us what we do deserve, and God's grace does give us what we do not deserve. (Vs. 20-29)
- Take-Out #5: God's calling comes packaged with God's enabling with the "how" of the Spirit to do the "what" of the Word. (Vs. 30-35)

1 Then Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said to them, "These are the words which the LORD has commanded you to do: 2 Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. 3 You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

- Once again I think it's necessary to refer you to another study regarding the "keeping of the Sabbath day," as the Sabbatarians teach.
- Back on January 29th of this year, we devoted an entire Thursday night to the study of the Sabbath when we were in Exodus 20:8-11.
- If this is still unclear for you, then I would encourage you to get a CD of that study. You can also download at: www.calvarychapelkaneoh.com.

- Here Moses is communicating to the Israelites all that the Lord had commanded them to do, and he starts off with "first things first."
- The building of the Tabernacle will be no small accomplishment; rather it will take a lot of time, a lot of money, and a lot of hard work.
- God knows us and how that we are prone to over work so as to get done what needs to get done. After all, we've got a lot of work to do!

- God commands them to only work a "six day work week," then makes the seventh day holy as a Sabbath rest in which they don't work.
- He even goes as far as to say that if anyone does any work on the seventh day, he must be put to death, which at first seems harsh.
- However, there are enormous ramifications and implications woven into this that can and have been grossly misunderstood by many.

- The death penalty for working on the Sabbath day points, in typology, to being put to death for the wages of sin. It's the death penalty.
- The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life "in" Christ Jesus and the Sabbath points to that free gift of salvation.

- To "work" on the Sabbath is to "break" the typology. The Sabbath points to both the person of Jesus Christ and the cross of Christ.
- Jesus fulfills the Sabbath. We can "rest" from our work for salvation, because the finished "work" on the cross paid in full for salvation.
- While we no longer work for our salvation, we do work for the Lord in response to our salvation, which again, the Tabernacle points to.

- Now this brings us to our first "take out." We have a "saving relationship," both with and because of Jesus Christ, and it's paramount.
- It is because of this that my time spent in this relationship with the Lord and is more important than my time spent in service to the Lord.
- It's as if the Lord is saying, I have a new covenant with you, and in turn, I want you to enter into this saving relationship with Me.

- I don't want us as a church to miss this because many a church has been guilty of sacrificing a relationship with Him for service to Him.

"In an effort to get the work of the Lord done we often lose contact with the Lord of the work and quite literally wear our people out as well. I have heard more than one pastor boast that his church was a "live" one, pointing to the printed calendar as a proof-- something on every night and several meetings during the day. Of course this proves nothing except that the pastor and the church are being guided by a bad spiritual philosophy. A great many of these time-consuming activities are useless and others plain ridiculous. "But," say the eager beavers who run the religious squirrel cages, "they provide fellowship and they hold our people together." To this I reply that what they provide is not fellowship at all, and if that is the best thing the church has to offer to hold the people together it is not a Christian church in the New Testament meaning of that word. The center of attraction in a true church is the Lord Jesus Christ.... If the many activities engaged in by the average church led to the salvation of sinners or the perfecting of believers they would justify themselves easily and triumphantly; but they do not. My observations have led me to the belief that many, perhaps most, of the activities engaged in by the average church do not contribute in any way to the accomplishing of the true work of Christ on earth. I hope I am wrong, but I am afraid I am right."

A.W. Tozer "That Incredible Christian," pp. 136-137

4 And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying: 5 Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD: gold, silver, and bronze; 6 blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; 7 ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; 8 oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; 9 onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.

- It's interesting to note the contrast between this command and the previous one. This is voluntary, but the Sabbath was mandatory.
- The Lord wants this done of volition not coercion. In verse five Moses says; "Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering."

- Also, this is "free will offering," in how it was to be accepted from the Israelites, as opposed to being not taken from the Israelites.
- The KJV translates verse five as; "take an offering," but the word for take would be better translated "accept or receive an offering."

- The fact of the matter is, this is diametrically opposed to what we see taking place today in Christendom, especially on TV and Radio.
- One is left to wonder if it weren't for them aggressively extracting money from God's people, that God was going to go bankrupt in days.
- This brings us to take Out #2: If it's done cheerfully, then give to the Lord, if it is done grudgingly, it won't be a blessing for the Lord.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. NIV

"The Lord loveth a cheerful giver. His revenues are his due, yet they are not levied as a tax, but given spontaneously by willing minds. Every Israelite should be a giver, for he is a receiver." Charles Spurgeon

10 'All who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make all that the LORD has commanded: 11 the tabernacle, its tent, its covering, its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets; 12 the ark and its poles, with the mercy seat, and the veil of the covering; 13 the table and its poles, all its utensils, and the showbread; 14 also the lampstand for the light, its utensils, its lamps, and the oil for the light; 15 the incense altar, its poles, the anointing oil, the sweet incense, and the screen for the door at the entrance of the tabernacle; 16 the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles, all its utensils, and the laver and its base; 17 the hangings of the court, its pillars, their sockets, and the screen for the gate of the court; 18 the pegs of the tabernacle, the pegs of the court, and their cords; 19 the garments of ministry, for ministering in the holy place -- the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests."

- Here we have, once again, the explicit detail with which the Tabernacle was to be built and from our previous studies, we learned why?
- Every detail of every facet of every phase of the Tabernacle points to the person of Jesus Christ and the finished work of the cross.

- Both the shape and the location of the Tabernacle were such that they would in effect introduce the Israelites to their coming Messiah.

- The Israelites would have the Tabernacle, which would be fulfilled by the Christ, at the center of their camp, and the center of their lives.

- In other words, everything was about Jesus. Everything centered in and was focused on Jesus. This brings us to the third "Take-Out."

- When Jesus is in His rightful place at the center of my life, then, I'll be the recipient of His blessing in my life, with no curse on my life.

- In Numbers 22-24, there's a powerful demonstration of this truth, when Balak pays Balaam to pronounce a curse on the Israelite camp.

Numbers 23:11 Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but you have done nothing but bless them!" NIV

- The reason Balaam couldn't pronounce a curse upon the Israelites is because of Who was at the center of the camp with the Israelites.

- Also, the Israelite camp with, the Tabernacle in the center, was in the shape of a cross upon which the curse will soon be placed.

- Numbers 2 lists the numbers of the 12 tribes of Israel in four groups of three tribes each camped to the North, South, East and West.

- Judah to the East – 186,400, Reuben to the South – 151,450, Ephraim to the West – 108,100, Dan to the North – 157,600

- This is where it gets real interesting, because the writer of Hebrews tells us that the earthly Tabernacle is a copy of the heavenly scene.

Hebrews 8:5-6 5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." 6 But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. NIV

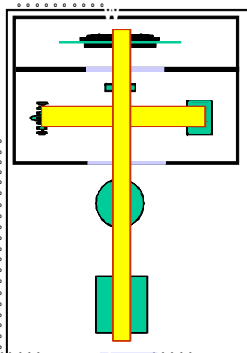
- In Revelation, John describes this heavenly scene and shows us how fits together so beautifully, perfectly and even prophetically.

Revelation 4:6-7 6 Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. NIV

- Just as these four creatures are around the throne at the center, so too are these four of three tribes centered around the tabernacle.

	JUDAH	EPHRAIM	REUBEN	DAN
Camp	East	West	South	North
Face	Lion	Ox	Man	Eagle
Gospel	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus	Messiah (What He Said)	Servant (What He Did)	Son of Man (How He Felt)	Son of God (Who He Was)
Written	To the Jew	To the Roman	To the Greek	To the church

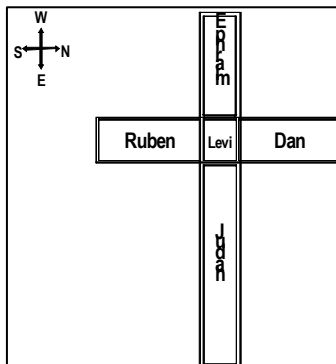
The Tabernacle



FOUR CAMPS OF ISRAEL

Judah	74,600	Ephraim	40,500
Issachar	54,400	Manasseh	32,200
Zebulun	57,400	Benjamin	35,400
	186,400		108,100
Reuben	46,500	Dan	62,700
Simeon	59,300	Asher	41,500
Gad	45,650	Naphtali	53,400
	151,450		157,600

NUMBERS CHAPTER 2



20 And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.21 Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the LORD's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.22 They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold, that is, every man who made an offering of gold to the LORD.23 And every man, with whom was found blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, goats' hair, red skins of rams, and badger skins, brought them.24 Everyone who offered an offering of silver or bronze brought the LORD's offering. And everyone with whom was found acacia wood for any work of the service, brought it.25 All the women who were gifted artisans spun yarn with their hands, and brought what they had spun, of blue, purple, and scarlet, and fine linen.26 And all the women whose hearts stirred with wisdom spun yarn of goats' hair.27 The rulers brought onyx stones, and the stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate,28 and spices and oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.29 The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the LORD, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the LORD, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.

- Here again we see that they, of their own free will, gave with a "willing" heart. There is no pressure to give as evidenced by vs. 20.
- Notice it says that the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence before they gave. This wasn't to be a quick decision.
- What's interesting is that some have estimated, in gold and silver alone, they gave in excess of one billion dollars by today's standards.

- What would cause them to give so much so willingly? God's grace and mercy! This was God's way of giving them another chance.
- They had just given, who knows how much gold to make a false god, and now they can give gold to make a Tabernacle to the true God.

- That's our fourth "Take-Out." God's mercy doesn't give us what we do deserve, and God's grace does give us what we do not deserve.

30 And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship,32 to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze,33 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship. 34 "And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.35 He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen, and of the weaver -- those who do every work and those who design artistic works.

- Moses now tells the Israelites that God has provided the right men for the right job that He has called and commanded them to do.
- Notice that God fills them with the Spirit, and has given them the skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts and artistic designs.
- In other words, God will give them what they need in order to do what they need to do. He doesn't just leave it to them to figure out.

- That's Take-Out #5: God's calling comes packaged with God's enabling with the "how" of the Spirit to do the "what" of the Word.